

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please replace the pending claims with the following listing of claims:

1-13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant for mounting on the proximal end of a tibia, the condylar implant comprising:

a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface, the top articular surface being adapted to mate with a femoral condyle;

a stem downwardly projecting from the bottom surface of the bearing plate, the stem having a proximal end formed on the bottom surface of the bearing plate and an opposing distal end that is spaced apart from the bottom surface of the bearing plate with a central longitudinal axis extending through the stem between the proximal end and the distal end thereof, the stem being oriented so that the central longitudinal axis extending from the proximal end of the stem intersects with and passes through the bearing plate adjacent to the proximal end of the stem and an inside angle is formed between the central longitudinal axis of the stem and the bottom surface of the bearing plate in a range between about 30° to about 80°, the stem and the bearing plate being fabricated as a monolithic piece of material so that there is no mechanical connection removably coupling the stem to the bearing plate; and

means for connecting a fastener to the stem.

15. **(Cancelled)**

16. **(Withdrawn)** A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, wherein the bearing plate comprises:

a lower bearing plate having the stem projecting therefrom; and

an upper bearing plate having the top articular surface formed thereon, one of the lower bearing plate and upper bearing plate having a track formed thereon while the other has a key that slidably rides within the track.

17. **(Withdrawn)** A condylar implant as recited in claim 16, wherein the key has the configuration of a tenon while the track comprises a mortis configured to slidably receive the tenon.

18. **(Original)** A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, further comprising:
the bottom surface of the bearing plate having a pocket formed thereon; and
an inlay being secured within the pocket.

19. **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Currently Amended)** A condylar implant as recited in claim ~~19~~ 18, wherein the pocket and the inlay encircle the stem.

21. **(Original)** A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, wherein the means for connecting the fastener to the stem comprises a threaded socket formed on the stem.

22. **(Cancelled)**

23. **(Original)** A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, wherein the bearing plate has a maximum thickness in a range between about 2 mm to about 10 mm.

24. **(Original)** A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, wherein the stem has a length in a range between about 2 mm to about 6 mm.

25. **(Withdrawn)** A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, further comprising a mounting flange downwardly projecting from the bottom surface of the bearing plate at a perimeter edge of the bearing plate, the mounting flange bounding at least one hole extending therethrough.

26. **(Currently Amended)** A condylar implant system comprising:

a condylar implant comprising:

a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface, the top articular surface being adapted to mate with a femoral condyle;

a stem downwardly projecting from the bottom surface of the bearing plate; and

means for connecting a fastener to the stem;

a fastener mechanically engaging with the stem ~~so that at least a portion of the fastener is disposed outside of the stem~~; and

a tubular bone anchor removably encircling at least a portion of the fastener ~~so that at least a portion of the bone anchor is disposed outside of the stem~~, the bone anchor having an exterior surface with at least one helical thread radially outwardly projecting therefrom.

27. **(Original)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 26, wherein the fastener comprises a shaft having threads formed thereon.

28. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 27, further comprising an enlarged head integrally formed on the shaft or an enlarged nut removably mountable on the shaft.

29. **(Cancelled)**

30. **(Currently Amended)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 26, wherein the fastener has external threads that rotate in a first direction and the helical thread on bone anchor ~~has external threads that rotate~~ rotates in a second direction that is opposite of the first direction.

31. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 26, wherein the bone anchor has an interior surface bounding a channel extending between a first end and an opposing second end, the first end terminating at a first end face, the channel comprising a first channel portion extending from the first end, a second channel portion extending from the second end, and a radially inwardly projecting shoulder disposed between the first channel portion and the second channel portion.

32-37. **(Cancelled)**

38. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant system for use on the proximal end of a tibia, the system comprising:

- a condylar implant comprising a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface;

- an elongated fastener selectively mountable to the bottom surface of the bearing plate; and

- a tubular bone anchor removably encircling at least a portion of the fastener, the bone anchor having an interior surface bounding a channel extending between a first end and an opposing second end, the first end terminating at a first end face, the channel comprising a first channel portion extending from the first end, a second channel portion extending from the second end, and a radially inwardly projecting shoulder disposed between the first channel portion and the second channel portion, the bone anchor further comprising one or more threads or barbs formed on an exterior surface thereof.

39. **(Original)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the condylar implant further comprises a stem projecting from the bottom surface of the bearing plate, the stem being configured to mate with the fastener.

40. **(Original)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the fastener mounts to the bearing plate so as to form an inside angle between the fastener and the bottom surface of the bearing plate in a range between about 30° to about 80°.

41. **(Withdrawn)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the bearing plate comprises:

a lower bearing plate having the bottom surface formed thereon; and

an upper bearing plate having the top articular surface formed thereon, one of the lower bearing plate and upper bearing plate having a track formed thereon while the other has a key that slidably rides within the track.

42. **(Original)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, further comprising:
the bottom surface of the bearing plate having at least one pocket formed thereon;
and

an inlay comprised of a porous bone ingrowth material being secured within the at least one pocket.

43. **(Original)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the fastener comprises an elongated shaft having a length in a range between about 5 mm to about 15 mm.

44. **(Withdrawn)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the fastener comprises an elongated shaft having an enlarged head integrally formed thereon.

45. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, further comprising an enlarged nut removably mountable to the fastener.

46. **(Cancelled)**

47. **(Original)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the fastener has at least one helical thread that engages with the condylar implant and the bone anchor has at least one external helical thread, the helical thread of the bone anchor rotating in a direction opposite of the helical thread of the fastener.

48. **(Cancelled)**

49. **(Withdrawn)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the fastener comprises a shaft having an enlarged head integrally formed thereon, the head being biased against the shoulder of the bone anchor.

50. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, further comprising an enlarged nut removably mounted on the fastener and biased against the shoulder of the bone anchor.

51. **(Withdrawn)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, further comprising a drive rod integrally formed with the fastener, a plurality of spaced apart annular breaking grooves being formed at the intersection between the fastener and the drive rod.

52.-54. **(Cancelled)**

55. **(Currently Amended)** A condylar implant system for use on the proximal end of a tibia, the system comprising:

- a condylar implant comprising a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface, a stem projecting from the bottom surface of the bearing plate;

- an elongated fastener configured to selectively mate with the stem;

- a tubular bone anchor removably encircling at least a portion of the fastener, the bone anchor having an exterior surface with at least one helical thread radially outwardly projecting therefrom; and

- a nut having a passage extending completely therethrough, the nut being removably threaded onto the fastener ~~so as to bias against the tubular bone anchor~~.

56. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 55, wherein the bearing plate and the stem comprise a unitary member that is fabricated from a single piece of material.

57. **(Cancelled)**

58. **(Cancelled)**

59. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant system for use on the proximal end of a tibia, the system comprising:

- a condylar implant comprising a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface;

- an elongated fastener having a first end and an opposing second end, the first end being removably threaded to the bottom surface of the bearing plate without extending through the bearing plate; and

- a nut having a passage extending completely therethrough, the nut being removably threaded onto the fastener from the second end of the fastener.

60. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 59, further comprising a tubular bone anchor removably encircling at least a portion of the fastener.

61. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant system as recited in claim 59, wherein the bone anchor has an exterior surface with at least one helical thread radially outwardly projecting therefrom.

62. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant system for use on the proximal end of a tibia, the system comprising:

- a condylar implant comprising a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface, the top articular surface being adapted to mate with a femoral condyle;

- a fastener comprising an elongated shaft having a first end and an opposing second end, the first end being removably mounted to the bottom surface of the bearing plate, an enlarged head being permanently fixed on the shaft or an enlarged nut being removably mountable onto the shaft; and

a tubular bone anchor removably encircling at least a portion of the fastener, at least one or more threads or barbs being formed on an exterior surface of the bone anchor.

63. **(Cancelled)**

64. **(Cancelled)**

65. **(Cancelled)**

66. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, wherein the stem is oriented so that a distance from the bottom surface of the bearing plate to the central longitudinal axis at the distal end of the stem is greater than a distance from the bottom surface of the bearing plate to the central longitudinal axis at the proximal end of the stem.

67. **(Previously Presented)** A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, wherein the stem is oriented so that a substantially V-shaped notch is formed between the bottom surface of the bearing plate and an exterior surface of the stem.

68. **(Cancelled)**